

» Cars » Auto Financing » Event Tickets » Jobs » Real Estate » Online Degrees » Business Opportunities » Shopping

Search

How do I find it?

Subscribe to paper



Home News Travel Money Sports Life Tech Weather

Become a member of the USA TODAY community now!  
[Log in](#) | [Become a member](#)  
 What's this?



News » Education

# Record number of U.S. students study abroad, in diverse locations

Updated 12h 28m ago | Comments 9 | Recommend 3 | E-mail | Save | Print | Reprints & Permissions | [RSS](#)



Enlarge By Jeff Chiu, Associated Press

Melissa Sconyers, who studied abroad in China, is photographed with a Chinese flag in San Francisco Aug. 11. China is the seventh most popular destination for U.S. students, according to the Institute of International Education.

By **Mary Beth Marklein, USA TODAY**

More U.S. students are studying abroad than ever before, and they're choosing an increasingly diverse array of destinations, a new report says.

A record 241,791 U.S. students went abroad for academic credit in 2006-07, up 8% from the previous year, and nearly 150% more than a decade earlier, the report says. It was released today by the Institute of International Education, a non-profit New York-based group that tracks international enrollment trends with U.S. State Department funding.

**HIGH MARK: 7% surge for foreign students in USA**  
**EXPERIENCE: Study abroad, community service enhance learning**  
**AWARD: Apply for the All-USA College Academic Team**

"U.S. students recognize that our world is increasingly interdependent," says Goli Ameri, assistant secretary of State for educational and cultural affairs. "There is tremendous interest on the part of other countries for Americans to study there."

Among report highlights:

**FIND MORE STORIES IN:** [United States](#) | [Congress](#) | [Europe](#) | [Asia](#) | [Baltimore](#) | [China](#) | [Argentina](#) | [South Africa](#) | [India](#) | [Ecuador](#) | [Christian Science Monitor](#) | [Institute of International Education](#) | [Goli Ameri](#)

- Europe continues to host the largest share of students, 57%, but that's down from the year earlier. Some of the fastest growth is occurring in Asia and Africa, where the number of students increased by 20% and 19%, respectively. By country, some of the biggest increases occurred in students going to South Africa, up 28%; China, up 25.3%; Argentina, up 26.2%; Ecuador, up 29.6%; and India, up 24.2%.

- The top three major fields of study are the social sciences (21.4%), business and management (19.1%), and humanities (13.2%). Students studying foreign languages represented 7.2% of the total; that was the only field to see a drop in the number of students going abroad.

- A trend toward shorter durations continues. More than 55% of students study abroad for periods of eight weeks or less, up from 53% the previous year. The number of students spending an academic year abroad has dropped from 5.5% to 4.4%.

Helping fuel the trend is an increase in programs and opportunities, the report says. More colleges and universities are creating partnerships with institutions abroad. Goucher College, near Baltimore, now requires all incoming students to study abroad. This summer, the former chair and vice chair of the 9/11 Commission urged Congress to approve a bill that aims to increase to 1 million the number of students studying abroad in a decade.

The United States "cannot conduct itself effectively in a competitive international environment when our most educated

## Related Advertising Links

What's This?

**Top 3 Colon Detox Cleanses Reviewed**  
 Personal reviews from people who have tried the real...  
[www.ColonReview.com](#)

**How I Lost 20 lbs in 2 Weeks - No Diets or Exercise.** Read my true story on how I did it. As...  
[NancyDiet.com](#)

## Education

Get information on education programs that could help you increase your earning power.

### Quick Degree Finder

Select a Degree Level

Select a Category

Select a Subject

[Find Now!](#)

Powered by: [eLearners.com](#)  
 Advertisement



## Daily Briefing E-mail Newsletters

### Sign up to get:

- Nation's top news
- Money, Sports, Life, Travel, Tech and more



[Sign Up Now](#)

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

**Database:** Search participating U.S. schools' scores | [Full list](#)



**NSSE:** Assessing the undergrad experience

**Students:** College kids 'get away with' poor preparation | Schools must make extra effort to help transfer students adjust



**Faculty:** Outside class, act as mentors and role models | Rethinking how they teach



**High impact:** Internships, study abroad, community service enhance learning



**Writing:** Deepens learning -- and many students write 100-plus pages



[More](#)

## YOU CLICKED: WEEK'S MOST POPULAR EDUCATION STORIES


**1:** College students 'get away with' poor preparation



**2:** Book taken in 1947 returned to school

**3:** Politics holds new role in high school classrooms



- 4: Board keeps KKK name on Florida school
  - 5: School of choice for Obama girls in D.C.? 
  - 6: Q&A with 'Mother on Fire' for public schools
- No. 7-10: Student loans, trading cards

citizens lack minimal exposure to, and understanding of, the world beyond U.S. borders," they argued in an op-ed in *The Christian Science Monitor*.

Even 1 million students would be a tiny share of all U.S. students; last year, more than 17 million students were enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities.

Institute president Allan Goodman suggests 1 million may be overly optimistic. If trends continue, he says, about half that number would be more realistic.

Even then, he says, challenges await. U.S. students are increasingly choosing to study in less-developed countries, for example, but those countries are already short of space. And countries that would welcome more U.S. students aren't prepared to accommodate a growing preference among U.S. students for shorter programs.

"Where will another 500,000 U.S. students go? There is not an inexhaustible supply in other countries," Goodman says. "There is a mismatch in terms of programs and capacity."

**ALL-USA COLLEGE TEAMS**

**About:** In March, USA TODAY will award 20 undergrads named to the All-USA College Academic Team with national recognition, a trophy and \$2,500. These students excel in scholarship *and* extend their reach beyond the classroom to benefit society.



**Apply for '09 team:** Rules | Fill out the form by 12/12/08



**2008:** These top undergrads set on solving problems | **Photos:** 1st team faces and feats | 2nd, 3rd and honorable mention teams

**Past winners:** 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001



**Share this story:**



- [Yahoo!](#)
- [Buzz](#)
- [Digg](#)
- [Newsvine](#)
- [Reddit](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [What's this?](#)

Posted 14h 59m ago

Updated 12h 28m ago

E-mail | Save | Print | Reprints & Permissions | [RSS](#)

To report corrections and clarifications, contact Reader Editor **Brent Jones**. For publication consideration in the newspaper, send comments to [letters@usatoday.com](mailto:letters@usatoday.com). Include name, phone number, city and state for verification.

**Guidelines:** You share in the USA TODAY community, so please keep your comments smart and civil. Don't attack other readers personally, and keep your language decent. Use the "Report Abuse" button to make a difference. [Read more](#).

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Log in](#) | [Register](#)

---

Submit

**Comments: (9)** Showing: [Newest first](#)



**korhashameaux** wrote: 4h 54m ago

this story is dumb. a sizable share of the increase in students going abroad is directly related to the increase in overall population. a more relevant statistic would be one showing the current percentage of students in the U.S. versus those abroad compared to the same percentages over the last 5 to 10 years.

because the number of students in college has grown, one should expect the number of students studying abroad will grow too.

[Recommend](#) | [Report Abuse](#)



**taiwaneers.com** wrote: 7h 4m ago

I grew up in Michigan and chose to do my bachelors degree in Taiwan. I chose Taiwan because its

way cheaper, gives me a chance to learn Mandarin Chinese, and sounded so much more fun than just a normal university experience back home.

The university I attend here in Taiwan, Ming Chuan University, even has programs taught completely in English and I am enrolled in one of them. I definitely don't seem to be suffering from any "lower standar" here either!

So far my experience has been overwhelmingly positive! Glad to know more students are agreeing that opportunities don't disappear at the US border.

-www.taiwaneers.com

Recommend 2 | Report Abuse



**bewolf1229** wrote: 7h 59m ago

Germany is known for the high quality of it's science and engineering. I am surprised that more students are not going there for their year abroad. I do not understand the eight week program. How much can you learn about your major area of interest in only eight weeks? Until now, I have always envied those who could study abroad for a year or more, not now. I am afraid that the Junior year abroad programs have been "guttet." Sounds more like an attempt to impress future employers by doing the minimum amount of work necessary. I am not sure about the three primary programs of interest? Spend good money to study social science, and the humanities abroad?

Recommend 2 | Report Abuse



**Marco Polo** wrote: 9h 25m ago

A record 241,791 U.S. students went abroad for academic credit in 2006-07, up 8% from the previous year, and nearly 150% more than a decade earlier, the report says.

-----

This is very good for the US benefit, the world peace and their individual careers. Isolation only would conduct the backward, the US GDP is just to occupy 19% of the world, and the trend is to be declining slightly, the rest of the world is abundant and wonderful.

Globalization is coming; the US needs more talents who are familiar with foreign language, culture and other institutions. Chinese and Japanese both languages would be more significant in the future than now.

These students also can promote the nice communications between the US and foreign countries. Understanding foreign countries can promote the interflow of the globe, world peace and the US export. The international trade would play a further essential role for the future US economy.

Recommend 3 | Report Abuse



**constantintrigue** wrote: 9h 50m ago

this is so interesting- I was just at a conference and they described similar numbers. The good news is there is a lot of emerging technology for study abroad

check out [abroad101.com](http://abroad101.com)

Recommend | Report Abuse



**m1ke-K** wrote: 11h 20m ago

**jackolantyrn356** wrote: 2h 3m ago

I don't think American Students should be having to put up with Liberal Vermin infested Hippie professors anymore. If American Students are going to learn about Communism they'll get it straight ip from real Communists in Europe. I don't know why Americans discard what works and take up systems that have failed over and over again. The reason for this failure is due to Socialist manipulation of the Capitalist system.  
\*\*\*\*\*

considering european education is beating the s#\$t out of american education these days... they're the smart ones.

I'm going overseas next year to study in germany or in south africa. whats the problem with wanting some diversity in ones life?

Recommend 1 | Report Abuse



**bav** wrote: 11h 24m ago

American students are very diverse too, currently, US University 58% White , 25% Asian , 10% Latino, 7% Black.

Recommend | Report Abuse



**meesterbig** wrote: 12h 39m ago

I remember studying a broad for about two years -- I finally married her.

Recommend **10** | Report Abuse



**jackolantyrn356** wrote: 13h 26m ago

I don't think American Students should be having to put up with Liberal Vermin infested Hippie professors anymore. If American Students are going to learn about Communism they'll get it straight ip from real Communists in Europe. I don't know why Americans discard what works and take up systems that have failed over and over again. The reason for this failure is due to Socialist manipulation of the Capitalist system.

Recommend **3** | Report Abuse

#### Sponsored Links

##### Top 3 Colon Detox Cleanses Reviewed

Personal reviews from people who have tried the real products.

[www.ColonReview.com](http://www.ColonReview.com)

##### How I Lost 20 lbs in 2 Weeks - No Diets

or Exercise. Read my true story on how I did it. As Seen on CNN & Fox!

[NancysDiet.com](http://NancysDiet.com)

##### Alternative to Open Back Surgery!

Gentle Arthroscopic Solutions For Back & Neck Pain

[www.laserspineinstitute.com](http://www.laserspineinstitute.com)

[Get listed here](#)

U.S.A. - London from **\$197** \* One-way based on round-trip purchase, excl. taxes and fees

There's no better way to fly. **Lufthansa**

click, book and fly

#### Newspaper Home Delivery - Subscribe Today

[Home](#) • [News](#) • [Travel](#) • [Money](#) • [Sports](#) • [Life](#) • [Tech](#) • [Weather](#)

**About USATODAY.com:** [Site Map](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Jobs with Us](#) | [Terms of Service](#)  
[Privacy Policy/Your California Privacy Right](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Press Room](#) | [Media Lounge](#) | [Reprints and Permissions](#)

**News Your Way:** [Mobile News](#) | [Email News](#) | [IM Alerts](#) | [Add USATODAY.com RSS feeds](#) | [Podcasts](#) | [Widgets](#)

**Partners:** [USA WEEKEND](#) | [Sports Weekly](#) | [Education](#) | [Space.com](#)

Copyright 2008 USA TODAY, a division of Gannett Co. Inc.